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Photo from Techno-Photographisches Archiv.

THIS IS TRULY A "PICTURE HOUSE"

The "Hansel und Gretel House" in Oberammergau, bearing a series of mural paintings based on the age-old fairy tale, is the most striking of many homes decorated in this quaint and charming fashion in the village of the Passion Play (see Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The Clyde, a Tiny River That Nurtures Sea Giants

WHEN the Queen of Great Britain named the world's most powerful, and perhaps largest, liner *Queen Mary* last month, and the vast ship slid gracefully down the ways into the River Clyde at Clydebank (7 miles west of Glasgow), one of the world's smallest rivers again sponsored a giant of the sea.

Although the massive 50,000-ton hull was aimed at the recently-deepened mouth of the River Cart, where it joins the Clyde, the expanse of water was still so narrow that eighteen drag chains of 1,000 tons each and seven tugs were used to slow up the vessel. Thus was accomplished the trick of launching a ship 1,000 feet long into a river only 870 feet broad!

The Clyde is never included in any list of the world's longest rivers, or of those of the greatest flow; but it would have to be placed near the head of the most important to mankind, along with the Hudson, the Thames, the Elbe, and Shanghai's Whangpoo.

Rises in Pastoral Tweeddale

Rising among the verdant hills of Tweeddale, the Clyde is a broad and shallow stream, broken here and there by rocky waterfalls, for the first 80 miles of its course; that is, until it reaches the center of Glasgow. The next 14 miles, to Dumbarton (the commercially-important part of the river), have been made navigable by dredging at the cost of millions of pounds. Finally the Clyde widens out into a beautiful estuary, the Firth of Clyde, which winds for many miles through rocky islands and towering hills to North Channel, between the open Atlantic and the Irish Sea.

"The Clyde" of tourist parlance is this lower section, where many long fingers of water reach deep into the Argyllshire highlands. Wooded shores of narrow sea-lochs are dotted with mansions and estates of the wealthy, and cottages of residents of Glasgow, who journey down the Clyde by steamer to spend week-ends in this picturesque vacationland so near to Scotland's largest city. A busy network of fast and frequent steamers connects the islands of Bute, the Cumbraes, and Arran, and mainland towns with the center of Glasgow.

"Clamorous and Sombre Stream"

But to the rest of the world it is the 14-mile reach between Glasgow and Dumbarton that is important. Conrad referred to this section of the Clyde as that "clamorous and sombre stream," and he who, by steamer, glides between its throbbing shipyards, crowded industrial towns, long docks, sugar refineries, and raucous shipping will agree that the great writer of sea stories captured its flavor in a phrase.

Glasgow was not always a seaport. As late as the middle of the seventeenth century it was a quiet inland town on a fordable stream. How Glasgow made the sea come to it—as daringly and more successfully than Mohammed with his mountain—is one of the most fascinating romances of engineering.

For a long time freight for the city was brought in ships to a point 40 miles down the Clyde estuary and carried the rest of the way on pack-horses and in carts. Later a port was established 19 miles away; but, as the city grew, the need for docks at its door became more apparent. The situation seemed hopeless, but in 1773 engineers hit upon the scheme of narrowing the channel and making the stream dig its bottom deeper.

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Photograph by Barton & Son

MYSORE, ONE OF INDIA'S MOST PROGRESSIVE CITIES, STILL LOVES PAGEANTRY

To American youths, state occasions in this inland capital, with lordly elephants, gay trappings, and splendidly costumed retainers or marchers, would seem like circus days. Mysore, however, is being modernized with wide boulevards and electric power (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Oberammergau Closes Its 31st Theatrical Season

NO PLAY along New York's Broadway or London's Strand has ever equalled the "run" of Oberammergau's Passion Play, which has just completed its 31st season. That it is not waning in popularity is evident from the announcement that nearly 400,000 persons witnessed the performances of the 300-year-old miracle drama this year. The play is presented each ten years in fulfillment of a sacred vow.

Hundreds of thousands of travelers from all over the world since 1634 have visited Oberammergau, but their comings and goings have had little effect on the village. Its 2,500 inhabitants carry on the arts, crafts, and traditions of their forefathers.

Oberammergau lies in the Ammer Valley between the slopes of the Bavarian Alps in the extreme southern portion of Germany, not more than 10 miles from the Austrian border. Giant Kopel peak stands guard over the village.

Plague Led to Passion Play

The play and, therefore, Oberammergau's fame are the outcome of a terrible plague which swept down on the village in 1632. It was brought by one Kaspar Schisler, a native of the village, who was employed in the neighboring hamlet of Eschenlohe. Schisler, though dying with the plague, dragged himself over the mountain passes to see his wife and children.

During the fall of that year and until the summer of the next, the plague took a toll of 48 lives. The village elders, the "Council of Six" and "Council of Twelve," met in the parish church to consider what could be done. They vowed "to keep the Tragedy of the Passion every ten years." It is reported that "from that hour no one died of the plague in Oberammergau." In 1634 the villagers presented the first Passion Play.

The village theater seating over 5,000 is covered and entirely closed at one end. The other end forms a huge archway that frames the open-air stage, with the Bavarian Mountains forming a magnificent natural background. Productions begin at eight o'clock in the morning and continue until six in the evening with two-hour intermissions at noon. Dominant scenes depict Christ's last days on earth, including the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, with tableaux between the acts taken from the highlights of the Old Testament.

Over 1,000 in Cast

Over 1,000 persons take part in the production, and all must be natives of Oberammergau. After witnessing the play, the visitor, strolling through the village, learns why the people can stage such a masterpiece as the Passion Play. They are very strict in their ways of living, and each player has to have an excellent character to be elected for his or her part. The men let their hair and beards grow, as no wigs or artificial makeup are permitted.

The houses of Oberammergau, many of which have their upper stories frescoed with religious and fairy-tale scenes (see cover illustration), are not in systematic rows but are set down in the village as if they were placed in a Christmas tree garden. Some are half hidden by vines and trees. The villagers still cling to their Bavarian costumes on Sundays and gala festive days. The women wear long, full, red, black or multi-colored skirts and bodices with kerchiefs or embroidered scarves

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The plan worked. The pitifully meager two-foot depth of those days had become eight feet by 1836, twenty-two feet by 1900, and is now twenty-six feet—sufficient to accommodate huge modern ocean liners. It has been dredged once more to enable the *Queen Mary* to reach the sea. Picks wielded by wading men started the loosening of the river bottom in the old days; then came horse-drawn harrows.

In late years explosives and the most modern of steam dredges have helped keep the channel to its depth. Though Glasgow's waterway is where the river Clyde has flowed for ages, it has been truly said that it is "as artificial as the Suez Canal."

Except where there are commercial quays, docks and factories, nearly every foot of the Clyde waterfront from Glasgow to the estuary is now taken up with some of the world's greatest and busiest shipyards. Here in a stream which, for depth at least, was once outranked by almost any second-rate American creek, were launched in recent years, in addition to the *Queen Mary*, the giant *Aquitania*, the ill-fated *Lusitania*, the huge British battleship *Hood* and other famous craft among the largest ever built. Clydebank is already making plans, perhaps a bit too soon, for the construction of a sister ship to the *Queen Mary*.

Note: For additional Scottish references and photographs see also: "When the Herring Fleet Comes to Great Yarmouth," *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1934; "Vagabonding in England," March, 1934; "Edinburgh, Athens of the North," August, 1932; "The Races of Europe," December, 1918; and "Scenes in Scotland," November-December, 1917.

Back numbers of the *National Geographic Magazine* may be consulted in the bound volumes of your school or local library, or they may be obtained from the headquarters of the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. Write for price list, care of the School Service of The Society.

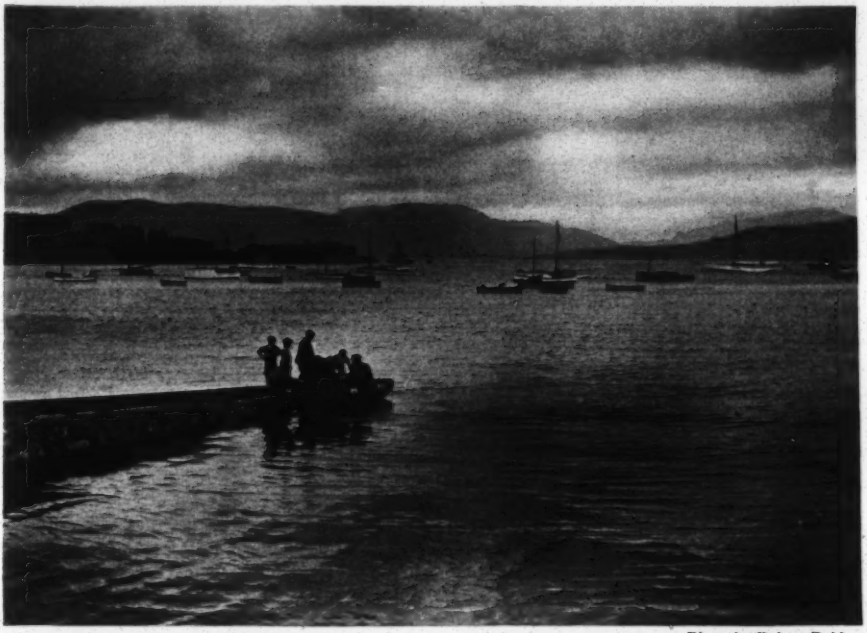

Photo by Robert Reid

DOWN THIS WATERWAY THE "QUEEN MARY" WILL STEAM TO THE SEA

The gateway of the Clyde, near Bourock, Scotland. Here the waterway widens and turns southward toward the North Channel and the open Atlantic. A little farther up the Clyde is Greenock, birthplace of James Watt, inventor of the steam engine, and Captain Kidd, notorious pirate.

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Spanish, Most Important Foreign Tongue to Americans

WHAT is the most important foreign language to residents of the United States? Spanish, because several million American citizens in Puerto Rico and along our Mexican border speak little else; and it is also the chief language, other than English, heard in areas under American control such as the Philippine Islands, the Canal Zone, Guam, and Guantanamo.

Spanish gained a lap on English in Puerto Rico last month when the Commissioner of Education of the island decided that all instruction in the lower grades should henceforth be carried on in Spanish. Even English will be taught in Spanish, although more time will be devoted to the study of the former. Both Spanish and English are "official" languages in Puerto Rico, but, popularly, Spanish is much more widely spoken and understood.

New Mexico Prints Laws in Both Tongues

Puerto Rico's action recalls an attempt made a year ago to abolish New Mexico's 20-year-old practice of printing its laws both in English and Spanish. It was decided, however, to continue the double language standard because there are still thousands of citizens of the State who read and speak only Spanish.

What is the geographical extent and nature of the "Spanish-speaking empire?" If a census taker today were to put the question "Habla usted Español?" ("Do you speak Spanish?") in our own country, voices would chorus "Sí, senor!" all over the Union, faintest in New England, loudest in the Southwest.

The answer would also echo beyond our borders, south across the Rio Grande down to Patagonia, through Mexico, six States in Central America, nine in South America; east across the Caribbean, through Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, to Spain, the mother country; westward to the Philippines. The Philippines, however, are considering a bill that will make English the official language of the islands when independence comes.

Nineteen Spanish-Speaking Republics

Today, nearly a hundred million people in nineteen republics, and in two island areas flying the Stars and Stripes, speak the musical tongue of Cervantes.

Millions of our American neighbors to the south and east speak Spanish. A third of our diplomatic posts and a fourth each of our consular and Department of Commerce foreign posts are in Spanish-language countries. Our foreign trade with them and our investments there run to impressive money totals. Our interest in their history and culture, tastes and standards is keen. Knowledge of their language has become for many business men in the United States an everyday need since telephones and radios have linked all the countries of the Western Hemisphere.

The New World began to speak Spanish when Columbus colonized Hispaniola. Long before the time of Jamestown and Plymouth, Spaniards were not only exploring and adventuring in this hemisphere, but diffusing their language and culture by planting settlements, setting up printing presses, and founding universities. Spanish was a dominant language in our own Southwest less than a hundred years ago.

Large Mexican Population in Los Angeles

Even today, in many Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona towns near the Mexican border, Spanish is almost as necessary as English. Almost as many people of Mexican blood live on the American side of our southern border as live in the Mexican States on the other side of it.

Los Angeles is one of the largest Mexican cities in the world, with a Spanish-speaking element larger than the entire population of Schenectady. It publishes a Spanish daily with a circulation of over 14,000. San Antonio's Mexican population would make a city as large as Berkeley, California; it issues a Spanish daily of more than 11,000 circulation.

In New Mexico the lower branch of the legislature, courts, and, in many towns, church services are conducted in the two tongues. On street, range, and farm, Spanish is on a par with English.

Around New York's Fifth Avenue and 110th Street lives a colony of Spanish-speaking people from Spain, Cuba, South America, Mexico, and the West Indies. It runs a Spanish theater, with vaudeville and motion pictures in Spanish. Many of its shops, drug stores and cafés bear signs in Spanish.

Mexican Spanish is heard in Pittsburgh and in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, steel plants, and in the West's orchards, cotton and beet fields, and among the men of its mine crews and railroad construction gangs.

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around their necks, crossed in front. White aprons complete the costume. On their heads are round, wide-brimmed, shallow-crowned hats.

The men wear short jackets, knee breeches, and footless stockings with hob-nailed shoes. Both men and women wear the "Gemsepinsel" perched on their hats. "Gemsepinsel" is the tuft from the breast of a chamois buck that inhabits the near-by mountains.

Woodcarving has also brought fame to Oberammergau. The carving school in the village has graduated artists whose work has been marketed the world over.

With the closing of the Passion Play this year, the players again picked up their tools and resumed their simple lives as sculptors, painters, woodcarvers, dairymen, herders, blacksmiths, and farmers, until another decade rolls by.

See also: "Freiburg—Gateway to the Black Forest," *National Geographic Magazine*, August, 1933; "Renascent Germany," December, 1928; "The Beauty of the Bavarian Alps," June, 1926.

Bulletin No. 2, October 15, 1934.

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SOUTHERN GERMANY IS CRISS-CROSSED WITH HIKER'S TRAILS

The Passion Play is by no means Oberammergau's only attraction for visitors. In the nine-year period between performances of the beautiful miracle drama many lovers of the out-of-doors use the village as a center for walking excursions to the summits of the Ammergau Alps. Above is a trail near the Black Forest region, west of Oberammergau, where signposts and benches make the hiker's lot a pleasant one.

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Colchester, Where the Oyster Is King for a Day

IN THIS country there isn't much ceremony about opening the oyster season. If there is an "R" in the month, we order a portion stewed, fried, steamed, or on the half shell, and, without further ado, gulp the bivalve down.

In England, however, gourmets and epicures are never really assured that oyster time has come until they read that the Prince of Wales, or the Duke of Something-or-Other, has attended the annual October oyster feast at Colchester, and found the season's offerings succulent.

Colchester, where the oyster is king for a day, is one of England's oldest and quaintest towns. The famous oyster beds of the River Colne were known to the Romans, who prized the bivalve highly. It may be possible that these same oyster beds were responsible for the selection of Colchester as the site of the first Roman colony in Britain, A.D. 50, although the town earlier enjoyed prominence as the capital of the Trinobantes under Cunobelinus (Shakespeare's "Cymbeline").

City Is Ten Miles from the Sea

To-day Colchester is a thriving city of 43,000, pleasantly situated some 10 miles up the River Colne from the North Sea. By rail it is 50 miles northeast of London, on the important trunk line linking the English capital with Harwich, where steamers connect with Dutch railways.

As the largest city in Essex outside the London area, Colchester is an important farming and shopping center, as well as the "Baltimore of England" for seafood. In England, too, Colchester is nearly as noted for its roses as its oysters. Thousands of beautiful blossoms are raised annually in Colchester nurseries and shipped to London markets.

To visitors in general, and students of English history in particular, Colchester is a treasure trove of antiquity. Sometimes it is difficult to untangle fascinating legend (Colchester is reputed to be "Old King Cole's" capital) from cold historical facts. But Colchester can show a host of tangible relics, ranging from Saxon doorways and Roman Town Walls, to a Norman Castle and early Gothic churches. It also possesses a Public Library stocked with rare medieval books.

Surrounded by Roman Walls

Like Chester, in western England, the heart of the city is surrounded by ancient walls, although Colchester's are entirely of Roman origin, whereas Chester's are probably Norman on the line of earlier Roman Walls. Colchester's walls still form a rectangle about two miles in extent, broken here and there by gates and peaked watchtowers. Although the average height is now 10 feet, the walls must have been over 20 feet high when they were stormed by the spectacular Boadicea, queen of the Iceni, 62 A.D.

The most interesting section of the city walls is the west front, which includes the ruins of Balkerne Gate. Here, according to local guides, stood the castle wherein the "merry old soul" called for his pipe, his bowl and his fiddlers three, and conducted his jolly court. To antiquarians it is more important as one of the two remaining Roman gates in England, the other being the Newport arch in Lincoln.

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The Spanish era left the United States a heritage of words which became "naturalized" and passed into current speech. These words live on in certain State names, such as Colorado, California, and Montana, some 2,000 town names, numerous mountain, river, and plant names, and in a host of other familiar terms. Adobe and adios and arroyo, bonanza and burro, canyon and calaboose, mesa, mañana, and mustang, plaza and patio, whatever their present spelling, are as Spanish in origin as the *Conquistadores.*

The West borrowed the cattle business from below the Rio Grande, together with the cowboy's clothes and horse equipment, his methods of riding, roping, rounding up, and branding. It also imported much of his language—bronco and quirt and lasso, "chaps," lariat, rodeo and rancho, and other terms.

Indian words with first a Spanish, then an English twist in spelling also are part of our speech heritage from Spain. Potato and tomato, tobacco, mesquite, chocolate, quinine, henequin, maize, cannibal, canoe—these and other native terms the Spaniards took from Mexico, Peru, the Caribbean islands and elsewhere, then passed them on to us.

The war with Spain and the opening of the Panama Canal quickened our interest in all things Spanish, which Prescott, Irving, Longfellow, and others had aroused. Today, many of the leading high schools and colleges teach Spanish language, history, and literature, and a growing number of American students attend summer courses in schools of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, and Madrid.

Pan-American conferences and concerts, radio programs, sound pictures, tours, special libraries, special museums and other exhibits; books of travel and description, history, arts, architecture, economics and politics; comment in newspaper and magazine—all testify to the attention which, today more than ever, the United States pays the Hispanic World.

Note: Spanish-speaking countries are described and illustrated in the following timely articles: "Cuba—The Isle of Romance," *National Geographic Magazine,* September, 1933; "Skypaths Through Latin America" and "Hispaniola Rediscovered," January, 1931; "Unexplored Philippines from the Air," September, 1930; "North America's Oldest Metropolis (Mexico City)," July, 1930; "Flying the World's Longest Air Mail Route," March, 1930; "Buenos Aires to Washington by Horse," February, 1929; "Arizona Comes of Age," January, 1929; "So Big Texas," June, 1928; "To Bogotá and Back by Air," May, 1928; "How Latin America Looks from the Air," October, 1927; "Porto Rico, the Gate of Riches," December, 1924; "Along the Old Spanish Road in Mexico," March, 1923; "The Countries of the Caribbean" and "The Haunts of the Caribbean 'Corsairs,'" February, 1922.

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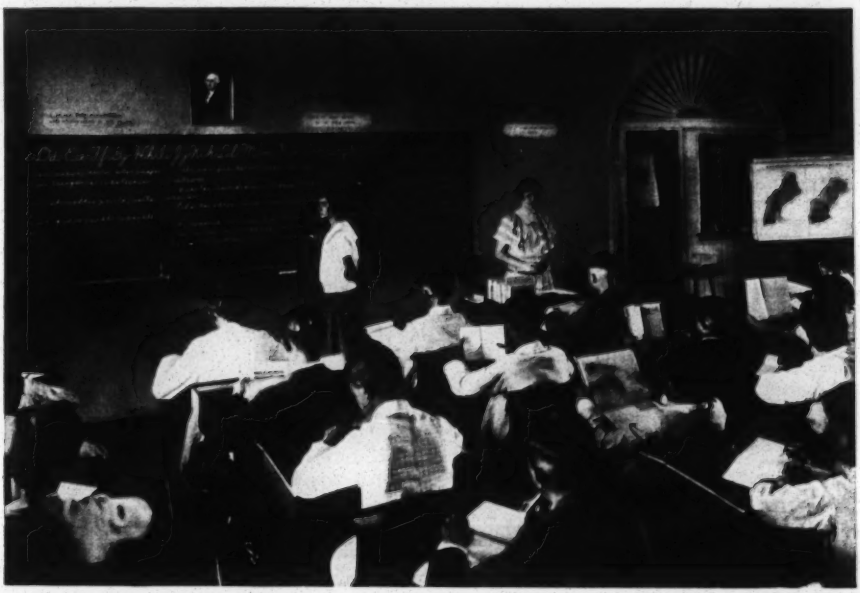

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CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED IN SPANISH IN THIS AMERICAN CLASSROOM

Puerto Rico has some excellent schools, employing modern teaching methods, such as this one in a small Puerto Rican town. Although every student is taught English, it has been decided to return to the traditional language of the island in all classes other than English instruction.

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Mysore Benefits from New South Indian Dam

FROM southern India come reports that the huge Stanley (also called Mettur) Dam, on the Cauvery River, has been completed and dedicated, adding to the map a 60-mile artificial lake whose waters will be used for irrigation over an area equal to that of the State of Delaware.

Although the new dam lies in the Indian State of Madras, about 30 miles north of the town of Erode, the State of Mysore, and its progressive capital city of the same name, will derive many benefits such as hydroelectric power, navigation, and water for crops. The hydroelectric plant has not yet been installed.

The city of Mysore, although it lies a considerable distance inland from the east coast of India, is one of the most up-to-date provincial capitals presided over by a native ruling prince. The word Mysore is derived from Sanskrit roots which signify "Buffalo town," and the Indian city, after two and a half decades of systematic public improvements, promises to rival Buffalo, New York, in breadth of boulevard and length of water main.

High on Plateau Between Ranges

Lying about 12 degrees north of the Equator, Mysore is saved from tropical heat by its situation high in the plateau country, which stretches between the two great mountain ranges of the Deccan Peninsula. It is the dynastic seat of one of the most important of the native states of India. The Maharaja of Mysore, along with the rulers of Hyderabad, Baroda, Gwalior, and Kashmir, is entitled to a salute of twenty-one guns.

This powerful and progressive prince rules supreme in his own state, subject only to the watchful eye and tactful "advice" of the British resident agent. The Maharaja is not a university graduate and it is said that he has never been outside India, but he has raised Mysore to front rank among the divisions of the Indian Empire.

Residents claim that in the matter of sanitation and good government Mysore equals any city British India has produced.

The ruling prince has, with the help of foreign engineering skill, some of it American, built an extensive irrigation system, operated a blast furnace, and erected cotton and woolen mills.

The famous Kolar gold mines are worked by electric power brought from a distance of 92 miles.

Maharaja Has Gorgeous Oriental Palace

At the beginning of the present century a scheme was evolved by the ministry of public works for the systematic improvement of the capital. Mysore, though it contained a few notable buildings, was at that time a city of narrow lanes and crowded, unsanitary tenements, without light or air, filling several square miles of a narrow valley running north and south between two hills. Wide avenues were driven through this old city, residential suburbs laid out to the east and west and handsome government buildings erected.

The old fort, dating from the sixteenth century, is at the south end of the town. Within its walls, surrounded by houses of feudal retainers, rises the elaborate palace of the Maharaja, rebuilt after a recent fire in the ornate Hindu style.

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Architects claim that the city's most important possession is Colchester Castle, whose massive Norman keep is the largest in England. Measuring more than 164 feet long and 126 feet wide, with walls from 11 to 30 feet thick, this impressive structure is double the size of the better-known White Tower of London. Roman materials were freely used in its construction. A museum within houses a valuable collection of early Celtic and Roman antiquities.

First House of Austin Canons

Those interested in religion find the ruined St. Botolph's Priory of paramount interest. Between 1093 and 1103 A.D. this noble structure became the first house of Austin canons in England. Its simple round doorway, with deeply recessed arches, suggests the austere life led by early churchmen. Nearby, too, stands Abbey Gate, the only relic of a stately mitred Benedictine abbey, dating from the early fifteenth century.

Colchester to-day is also an important military center. Here is the headquarters of the eastern military district of England. Its corn and cattle markets are busier than its few small industries. Weaving of woolens was an important occupation for many years after an influx of Flemish and Dutch refugees in 1570.

The city owns the famous oyster beds of the River Colne, and leases the privilege of harvesting the bivalves. It also controls the wharves of its harbor, in the suburb of Hythe. The oyster beds extend down the winding tidal reaches of the River Colne to Brightlingsea (locally pronounced "Brittlesey" or "Bricklesey"), a distance of nearly 10 miles.

So well known is the harvest of these ancient beds in England that London waiters often ask "Some Colchesters, sir?"—the word "oyster" being as unnecessary as it is in eastern United States for "Blue Points," "Lynnhavens," or "Chincoteagues."

Note: For additional references to England see: "Vagabonding in England," *National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1934; "Beauties of the Severn Valley," April, 1933; "Some Forgotten Corners of London," February, 1932; "Visits to the Old Inns of England," March, 1931; "Oxford, Mother of Anglo-Saxon Learning," November, 1929; "A Tour in the English Fenland," May, 1929; and "London from a Bus Top," May, 1926.

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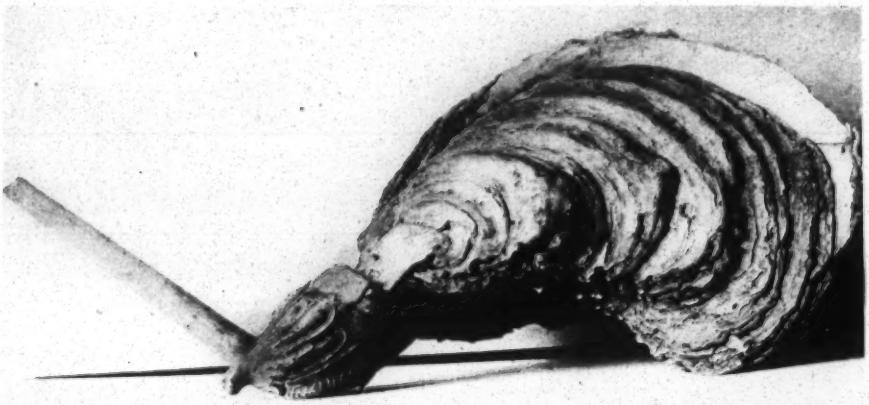

Photo from Dr. Hugh M. Smith

GROWING OYSTERS PLAY QUEER PRANKS

Like a cloud of smoke, this bivalve grew out of the bowl of a pipe that had dropped on an oyster bed. Young oysters in the free-swimming stage will attach themselves to rocks, shells, old lanterns, boots and other objects along the bottom. It is only when the young fall on sand or mud that they are lost.

Stone carvings after the manner of ancient temples, together with handsome porphyries and other ornamental stones from neighboring hills, produce an effect of true oriental gorgeousness.

On high ground to the west of the city, government offices raise their stately domes above the wooded grounds of Gordon Park. Over the site of a once noisome sewer runs a fine paved road flanked on either side by picturesque two-storied shops of the Lansdowne Bazaars.

Lord Cornwallis Also Fought Here

Houses of European residents lie to the east of the city. One of the most interesting was erected for the use of Colonel Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, in course of the long-drawn-out Mysore wars of the eighteenth century, fought between the British and that Mohammedan adventurer on the throne of Mysore, Haider Ali, and his son, Tippo Sultan. Lord Cornwallis, of Yorktown fame, was also a general in the same wars.

Government House, home of the British resident agent, is a stately mansion over a hundred years old. In its high-ceilinged rooms and secluded gardens much of the behind-the-scenes history of the State has been written, for the present dynasty owes its throne to British support at the close of the Mysore wars. In return the Maharaja has shown unwavering loyalty to the Empire throughout the political unrest of late years.

Note: The *National Geographic Magazine* has published the following articles on India in recent years: "The Pathfinder of the East," November, 1927; "Tiger Hunting in India," November, 1924; "Through the Heart of Hindustan," November, 1921.

Bulletin No. 5, October 15, 1934.

© *Wiele and Klein*

INDIA IS NOTED FOR ITS HAND-CARVED WOODWORK

Carpentry is the basis of south Indian architecture, although the simple methods and primitive tools of native woodworkers may be replaced when hydroelectric plants and new machinery make larger sawmills possible.